News Release

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Groundwater cleanup remedy to be tested on Dunn Field

MEMPHIS, TENN. — As part of the commitment to use the safest and most effective cleanup technologies available, the environmental team at the former Memphis Depot will conduct a Permeable Reactive Barrier pilot study in the area west of Dunn Field beginning May 16, 2006.

As outlined in the Dunn Field Record of Decision, the installation of a Permeable Reactive Barrier is a major component of the selected remedy for treating impacted groundwater. Permeable Reactive Barriers have been implemented at many sites across the country to reduce concentrations of chlorinated volatile organic compounds in groundwater.

The primary objective of this project is to test a new construction method for Permeable Reactive Barriers. The secondary objective is to test the method's potential effect on chlorinated volatile organic compounds in groundwater west of Dunn Field.

The results of the pilot study will be part of the Off-Depot Groundwater Remedial Design that will define the technical specifications and schedule for the groundwater remedy. The Remedial Design, which is expected to be completed and available to the public in the summer of 2007, will present the location where the full-scale Permeable Reactive Barrier will be installed. A public briefing will be scheduled in late 2007 to share this information with the community.

As presented in the Dunn Field Record of Decision, a Permeable Reactive Barrier will be installed underground across the natural flow path of impacted groundwater west of Dunn Field. The Permeable Reactive Barrier will contain granular Zero-Valent Iron material that results in a natural reaction when chlorinated volatile organic compounds in the groundwater come into contact with the Zero-Valent Iron. This treatment method has been proven successful in breaking down chlorinated volatile organic compounds into safe compounds that degrade naturally over time.

"This pilot study is being conducted to define the most effective method for installing this remedy," said Michael Dobbs, Environmental Program Manager for the Defense Distribution Center and member of the BRAC Cleanup Team. "Once in place, we are confident the technology will be effective in restoring the affected groundwater to safe conditions."

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CH2M HILL will oversee the pilot study, which will be conducted west of Dunn Field, along a vacant lot west of Rozelle Street and south of the Canadian National railroad tracks. The Depot and its contractors will make every effort to minimize noise and disturbance to the community. The study is expected to take approximately three weeks, followed by six months of confirmation sampling to ensure the effectiveness of the Permeable Reactive Barrier.

The Dunn Field Record of Decision and other documents pertinent to this study are available for public review in the Depot's information repositories located at the Cherokee Branch Library and the Memphis Depot Business Park.

For more information about this pilot study, please contact the Depot's Community Relations Office at (901) 774-3683.

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